Incidents of fire in defence depots

†451. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the incidents of fire taken place in the ordnance depot during the last three years;

(b) the separate details of the loss of arms and ammunitions and loss of life and property in each case;

(c) whether Government has conducted inquiry in every case;

(d) if so, the outcome of the every enquiry and action taken thereon; and

(e) the measures being taken by Government to check the recurring of such incidents in future and safeguarding the interests of the citizens?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) During the last three years only one incident of fire has taken place in 21 FAD, Khundroo, J&K on 11.8.2007. Nineteen people died and ammunition worth Rs.1313 crores approximately was destroyed in the incident. The civil administration has made a preliminary estimate of collateral damage to crops, fruits, livestock and buildings for Rs.39.33 crores.

2. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered by the Army. A number of measures have been taken to check the recurrence of such incidents in future:

(i) All Depots have updated safety and security instructions.

(ii) All Depots have been inspected by a Board of Officers to check adequacy of safety and security arrangements.

(iii) 225 trucks for fire fighting have been provided to the units.

(iv) Unserviceable ammunitions is being disposed off on priority.

MIG air crash

452. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of MIG air crashes during the last three years and the casualties therein;

(b) the details of loss incurred due to the frequent air crashes;

(c) whether Government has found out the reasons for the continued MiG air crashes; and

(d) if so, whether Government has evaluated any measures to contain such air crashes in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) A total number of 22 MiG aircraft of the Indian Air Force have crashed from 1.4.2006 till date. There were 3 casualties in these crashes. Each accident is investigated through a Court of Inquiry and remedial measures are undertaken accordingly to check their recurrence.in future and also assessed loss incurred. Besides,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

a continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgement and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), both indigenous and foreign, is also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. In addition, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

Strengthening of coastal security system

453. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) in view of the serious lapses in the country's coastal security system, whether it is a fact that his Ministry has decided to set up 9 Coast Guard Stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) the details of Coast Guard Stations proposed to be set up along the coast of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether the Ministry can also consider for covering the entire coast of the country with radar; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) The Government has approved setting up of nine (9) additional Coast Guard Stations in the country including one station at Nizampatnam in Andhra Pradesh. Appropriate steps have been taken for strengthening coastal surveillance and security, which includes installation of radars.

Probing crashes of Sukhoi SU 30 MKI

454. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of Russian experts has recently visited India to probe the crash of the Sukhoi SU 30 MKI aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF);

(b) if so, the details of the reports submitted by the experts Russian teams;

(c) whether in the past few months a large number of Aircrafts of Defence forces have crashed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government to check such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A team of Russian experts has visited India to probe the crash of the Sukhoi 30 MKI aircraft of the Indian Air Force. The report forms a part of the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry, which is under finalization.